



Commission Members (2003/2004):

Daniel J. Gilday, President
Denise M. Driehaus
Roscoe A. Fultz
Florence M. Newell, Ed.D
Rev. Kazava Smith
Sally Warner
Soroya Edwards, youth member
Bryan Lee, youth member

Foundation Members:

James Keys, President
James Berry, Treasurer
Robert Horine, Secretary
Mary Ann Berry
Jason Cohen
Brenda Elmore
Dan Klare



City Council:

Mayor, Charlie Luken
City Manager, Valerie Lemmie
Y. Laketa Cole
John Cranley
David Crowley
Pat Dewine
Sam Malone
David Pepper
Alicia Reece
Christopher Smitherman
James Tarbell

Recreation programs and facilities are open to all citizens regardless of race, gender, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

CRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Please call in advance if you require special accommodations.

©2004 Cincinnati Recreation Commission



annual • • report 2003

Inspiring Today. Strengthening Tomorrow.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission 2003 Annual Report
Table of Contents

Letters from the Director and President
1-2

Never Too Old, Never Too Young
Youth and Senior Services
3-4

Cincinnati's Front Porch
Riverfront and Downtown Events
5-6

Leaving Our Mark on the Community
Awards and Dedications
7-8

Just Over That Hill
Recreation Center Adventures
9-10

Get Into the Swing
Parks and Playgrounds
11-12

Year-End Financial Statements
2002 & 2003
13-14

Super Summer Stats
One week in July
15





Letter from the Director

Dear Members of City Council, Recreation Commission Members and Citizens:

I hope you enjoy reading the Cincinnati Recreation Commission 2003 Annual Report. I'm very proud of the efforts our staff, volunteers and partners have made to provide outstanding recreation services to the residents of Cincinnati. In the midst of budget challenges, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission has continued to provide essential recreation programs and facilities to the city. Providing a clean and safe environment for residents to gather and become involved in their communities is essential for the future of Cincinnati. Keeping dedicated and committed staff to mentor the young and provide recreational opportunities for everyone in our city, regardless of age or ability, is critical to our success. The role of recreation in our neighborhoods has become increasingly important. In more than a few cases, a recreation center or playground provides the only positive influence or improvement in quality of life available in these communities. Recently, a long time Over-The-Rhine resident who launched a successful career in dance commented on how "The Hub" (OTR Recreation Center) changed her life.

The benefits of well-rounded recreation services improve the health of our citizens and the quality of the urban environment. We are actively participating with many community partners to maximize our resources and provide more than the present budget provides. Several of our oldest facilities are under renovation and new facilities such as Mount Washington Recreation and the Otto Armleder Memorial Park and Recreation Complex are under construction.

As citizens continue to recognize the importance of recreation, our staff and volunteers will be there to provide the best service possible.

James R. Garges
Director

Letter from the President

Dear Members of City Council and Citizens:

The value of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission was obvious in October of 2003 when over 800,000 people crowded along Cincinnati's Riverfront to attend the Tall Stacks Music and Heritage Festival. Because of the diligence and dedication of our Waterfront staff, the public left the festival with a positive impression of Tall Stacks and of the city. There is no price tag you can attach to a good reputation, but the benefits are far reaching.

Less obvious, but just as important, is the refurbishing and renovation of our recreation centers. Renewing our commitment to the neighborhoods by maintaining and renovating our facilities sends an important message to the community. We can be counted on to provide recreational opportunities for the whole family for years to come. It's difficult to place a dollar figure on trust, but without it you have nothing.

It's easy to point to a beautiful new facility like the Otto Armleder Aquatic Center in Over-the-Rhine and measure its importance by watching the number of families who are enjoying it on a daily basis. Not quite as easy to see is the revitalization of the neighborhood surrounding the renovated Lincoln Community Center. In each case, these facilities have made an impact on their communities. The value of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission remains strong.

Daniel J. Gilday
President





Reds Rookie Success League

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission, the Cincinnati Reds Community Fund, Tri-Health and the Character Council of Greater Cincinnati, teamed together to form the Reds Rookie Success League (RRSL). The RRSL is a noncompetitive, coed, character-building summer baseball league targeting at-risk 8 and 9 year olds. The six week program offered "life lessons" while utilizing the game of baseball as the delivery vehicle. RRSL participants are introduced to the "Six Stars of Success" – cooperation, integrity, responsibility, education, determination and spirit. Each week, league participants learn a new character building trait and carry out that particular lesson during practices and games. The RRSL is not about winning and losing, but about promoting the importance of good character.



Teen Guard Start

Two-Hundred (200) kids, ages 11-14, have completed CRC's Guard Start program. This popular program teaches leadership, team building, communication, fitness, response and professionalism as well as providing a training ground for future CRC lifeguards. The Guard Start program is presented in conjunction with the American Red Cross.



George Foster Baseball Camp

On a beautiful Saturday this past June, George Foster, held a baseball clinic at the Oakley Baseball Fields. Eighty (80) kids, ages 8-12 from (13) community centers, learned the fundamentals of the game. Under Foster's watchful eye, coaches taught the kids the correct way to bat, field, catch fly balls and run the bases. Some kids had never played the game of baseball before, but developed skills faster than they thought possible. Many grown-ups, some of whom were as young as the kids being taught when Foster was playing professional baseball, were in awe at being in the presence of such a vital part of the Big Red Machine.



Kroger Family Fun Days

On nine (9) consecutive Sundays in the summer, the Kroger Co., generously donated money, pool toys, music and food to selected CRC pools. These wildly successful pool parties encouraged communities to socialize together, play in the sun and utilize CRC pools.

Hook a Kid on Golf

In the summer of 2003, Billy Casper Golf offered "Hook a Kid on Golf" week to kids 8-12 years old. Area pros held a daily golf seminar for thirty eight (38) kids who were never exposed to the game. They instructed the kids on the rules of the game, how to hold a club, how to putt, how to keep score and golf course etiquette. The kids spent many hours at the driving range and on the course at Avon Field perfecting their game. As a special treat, golf legend Billy Casper stopped by to speak to these future golfers.



Senior Olympics

In collaboration with local parks and high schools, the CRC presented the 2003 Senior Olympics. Seniors age 50 and older competed in such events as Cycling, Golf, Horseshoes, Tennis and Track & Field. In 2003, six senior basketball teams participated in the biennial National Senior Olympics, held in Hampton Roads, Virginia.



Youth and Senior Programs

"Never too old, never too young."

Chair Volleyball

Seniors from all over the city converge every Tuesday at Madisonville Recreation Center for one of CRC's newest leagues...Chair Volleyball. Each group fields a team of six to battle on a miniature court with a beach ball for the bragging rights of being named league champion. In June of 2003, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Seniors, the Southwest Ohio Senior Olympics and the Hamilton County General Health District held the First Senior Chair Volleyball Tournament.

Senior Hall of Fame

In September of 2003, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission inducted thirty-six senior citizens into the Senior Hall of Fame. These seniors were honored at a special Recognition Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The master of ceremonies, Courtis Fuller, presented the seniors with recognition awards with a little help from basketball great Oscar Robinson.



Tall Stacks

The Tall Stacks Music & Heritage Festival has become one of the most successful events in Cincinnati. Tall Stacks 2003 included not only the much-anticipated riverboats, but celebrity recording artists from across the country. The boats drew the people to the event. The entertainment and the food kept them there. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission's waterfront staff ran operations for the event and kept things running smoothly. Arriving very early in the morning and leaving very late at night, the staff kept up with the constant demand coming from the public and from the festival organizers. It is because of their diligence that the Tall Stacks Music and Heritage Festival for 2003 was the most successful festival to date.

Tall Stacks 2003 Facts –

- Over **800,000** people attended the event.
- **2600** volunteers helped produce the event.
- Riverboat cruise tickets (lunch, dinner and themed cruises) were a sell out.
- Total cruise tickets sold were **177,000**.
- **60,000** children learned about the region's history and heritage by participating in Tall Stacks' Sawyertown educational activities.
- Visitors to the festival enjoyed over **120** live musical performances throughout the five days including **30** national headline performers.
- Riverboat cruise tickets sales to groups increased **30%** to **32,000** cruise tickets.

The Showboat Majestic

In November 2003, the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, awarded the Showboat *Majestic*, the last of the floating theaters built in America and the only existing intact showboat, \$150,000 as part of the Federal Save America's Treasures grant program. The Showboat *Majestic*, which is owned by the City of Cincinnati's Recreation Commission, is permanently anchored at the foot of the Public Landing in downtown Cincinnati. It is an icon on Cincinnati's Riverfront.

The Showboat *Majestic* enjoyed another strong season in 2003, with nearly 2400 subscribers and a year topped off with a completely full slate of performances for Tall Stacks 2003. In addition to the subscription season, the Showboat produced numerous special performances for Day Camp groups, provided tours to school groups and hosted various meetings. The total attendance on-board the Showboat *Majestic* for 2003 was 35,912.

Riverfront/ Downtown Events - "Cincinnati's front porch."

Kid's Fest 25th Anniversary

KidsFest celebrated 25 successful years in Cincinnati in 2003. It remains the largest free kid's event in the nation! Thousands of young people and their parents converged on Sawyer Point in June to participate in games and watch performances at the P&G Pavilion Stage. They also had the opportunity to roller skate and learn to fish at the Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs booth. Cincinnati Recreation Commission provided the Fun Zone where kids participated in special activities and received prizes when they completed all of them.



OPRA Awards

For 2003, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission was honored to receive the following awards from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association:

Outstanding Achievement – *Facility Award* – Every Child's Playground at Sawyer Point (see pg. 11)

Award of Excellence – *Facility Award* – Otto Armleder Aquatic Facility in Over the Rhine (see pg. 11)

Meritorious Award – *Print Media* – Program & Facility Brochure

Award of Excellence – *Tech Marketing* – "Every Child's Playground" Video (see pg. 11)

Honorable Mention – *Youth Programs* – Reds Rookie Success League (see pg. 3)

Recreation Program and Facility Guide

The Program and Facility Guide, which received an OPRA Meritorious Award, has been an instrumental marketing tool for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. It's the perfect piece to display at all of our facilities, to hand out at job fairs and to distribute at special events. It continues to be the fastest, easiest and best way to explain to the public all of the wonderful activities that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission provides and where to find them.



Awards and Dedications

Carl and Edyth Lindner Family Tennis Center

The Carl and Edyth Lindner Family Tennis Center at Lunken Playfield has been named one of the outstanding public tennis facilities for 2003 by the United States Tennis Association. The official announcement was made in New York at the USTA's semi-annual meeting in September. This facility is the home to many outstanding tennis tournaments, including the Paul Siemon Memorial Metropolitan Seniors Tennis Tournament, the Thomas E. Price Cincinnati Metropolitan Tennis Championships, the Mixed Doubles Championships, and the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters Junior Championships.



Re-dedication of Lincoln Center

After closing for renovations in November of 2001, the Lincoln Recreation Center re-opened its doors after a \$3 million facelift. Updates included a new gym, weight room, men's and women's rest rooms with showers and a new lobby. Mayor Charlie Luken helped to reopen the building at a special ribbon cutting ceremony. Just a few days later, volunteers from Life Success Seminar helped to build a new playground as part of the Pride in Our Playgrounds Initiative.



"Leaving our mark on the community"

Facility Groundbreakings

A joint effort between many local agencies, communities and the Otto Armleder Memorial Fund came to fruition in October as the groundbreaking for the new Otto Armleder Memorial Park & Recreation Complex took place. The new park will include soccer fields, a playground, 1.5 mile multi-use fitness trail, canoe and kayak launch area and many other amenities. This \$6 million dollar park is scheduled for completion in 2004.



Built in 1888, the Westwood Town Hall was in great need of renovation. Originally built as a fire department and police station, Westwood Town Hall was home to the YMCA from the 1930's-1960's and once included a 50' Rifle range in the basement operated by the Western Rifle Association. Because of the historical importance of the building and the continuing need for the programs being offered there, CRC placed Westwood Town Hall near the top of its list for city buildings needing to be renovated. With the support of Mayor Charlie Luken, council member David Crowley and other members from Cincinnati City Council, Westwood Town Hall received \$1.6 Million dollars in renovation project support. Renovations began in October of 2003 and expect to be completed in the spring of 2005.





Rivertrek

Twenty-four (24) lucky teens had the adventure of their lives when they took a five (5) day journey down the Little Miami River. These teenagers, from diverse social and economic backgrounds took part in a 56-mile trek in canoes and rafts from Oregonia, Ohio to the Public Landing in downtown Cincinnati. Accompanied by CRC staff and area police officers, they learned about the environment, how to work as a team and how to become responsible adults. Many of these teens had never been away from an urban environment. The participants were selected from many applicants. The journey marked the 7th anniversary of this popular CRC program.



Recreation Center Adventures

Light Up the Square

For the second year in a row, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission produced the annual "Light Up The Square" event on Fountain Square. This event consistently brings thousands of tri-state residents to Fountain Square to kick off the holidays. Ice skating and local singers entertained the crowd until the big moment when Mayor Charlie Luken counted down the crowd while Elaine and Al Staples of Westwood, who donated their 28 foot blue spruce to the city, threw the switch to illuminate over 100,000 lights that decorated the square.

Therapeutic Recreation

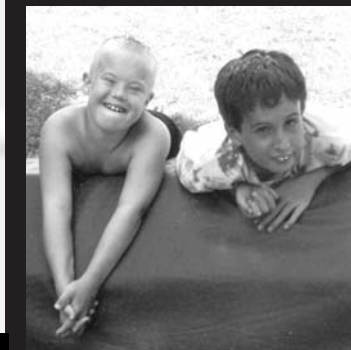
In 2003, the Therapeutic Division continued its efforts to make inclusion a realistic option for people with disabilities. Partnerships with CITE Services and the Hamilton County SERRC, led to training for CRC summer staff and on-going support for many individuals with disabilities. The Department's effort to make all programs accessible was recognized in the form of nominations for awards through the Inclusion Network, Hamilton Choices and the Hamilton County ARC.

Therapeutic Recreation continued to provide a high level of programs and services, featuring a number of new programs while continuing past favorites. Participation in many Therapeutic programs has increased, but the largest increase occurred in general CRC programs that now include participants with disabilities. Inclusive participation increased by more than sixty percent and expanded beyond day camp programming to include other programs and activities such as RiverTrek, Teen Socials, and the youth sports programs.

"Just over that hill!"

Adventure Team

With the success of such teen adventure programs like RiverTrek, the need for similar programs was apparent. The Adventure Team provides local teens with the opportunity to experience Adventure in many unique ways. Rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, rafting, cave exploration, scuba diving, backpacking, snow skiing and camping give today's restless teens a way to expound their energies in a positive environment. It provides lessons in survival and team work while taking them outside of their normal "comfort" zone and exposing them to the wonders of nature.





1000 Hands at Sawyer Point

Kids come in all sizes, shapes and abilities. One thing they have in common is the love of fun and exploration. "Every Child's Playground" is a place where all kids, regardless of their abilities, can play together. Hundreds of volunteers built this 1,000 Hands Project at Sawyer Point in September. The playground is in the shape of an old fashioned riverboat. There are slides, swings, a music area and a special play village that allows not only physically disabled children to play, but includes children with cognitive disabilities as well. Working from early morning until long after the sun went down, these volunteers dug, sawed, hammered, racked, fastened screws and sanded surfaces until what once was an empty piece of dirt, became a 10,500 square foot fully inclusive playground.



1000 Hands Mural

Artist Tammy Stephens created a special mural for "Every Child's Playground" at Sawyer Point. Armed with books and historical photos, she illustrated what life along the river must have been like during the last century. The mural is the backdrop for the horizontal climbing wall that is one of the centerpieces of the playground.



Otto Armleder Aquatic Facility

The brand new 1.5 million dollar Otto Armleder Aquatic Facility, 223 West McMicken Ave., in Over-The-Rhine was dedicated by local dignitaries in June. This pool is the first of its kind for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and features water sprays, water play apparatus, water flumes and slides. The Armleder Trust donated a million dollars to this project, with \$500,000 coming from the National Park Service Urban Park and Recreation Program.

Playgrounds Completed in 2003

8th & Depot	2127 W. 8th Street
Boldface	3070 River Road
College Hill	5660 Belmont
Daniels (Comm. Built)	1128 Groesbeck
Desmond Street	6306 Desmond
Evanston Pool	3558 Evanston Avenue
Filson (Comm. Built)	461 Ringgold
Grant (Comm. Built)	65 E. McMicken Avenue
Hannaford (Mellwood)	Mellwood Avenue
Lang Playfield	6006 Woodford Rd.
Madisonville	5312 Stewart
Old Findlay (by market)	Findlay St b/w Race & Elm
Oskamp	5652 Glenway
Price Hill	959 Hawthorne
Rice & Loth	Rice & Loth
Ryan Memorial	3324 Meyer
Schwarz	2211 May Street
Zinsle	Zinsle & Red Bank

Ashland & Chapel	2902 Ashland Avenue
Carmalt (Comm. Built)	530 Carmalt
Coy	Marshall, Devotie, Wagner
DeHart	Mathers & Altoona
Evans (Lower Price Hill)	628 Evans Street
Fairview (Comm. Built)	2219 Ravine Street
Glendora	Glendora & Shields
Hanna	223 W. McMicken
Hendy Memorial	Woodbriar, Juniper, Edgetree
LeBlond	2335 Eastern Avenue
Moorman	2611 Moorman Avenue
Olden	3436 Warsaw
Park Myrtle	Park & Myrtle
Rapid Run	4530 Rapid Run Road
Rockdale & Harvey	Harvey & Rockdale Sts.
Schmidt	250 St. Peter's Street
Wayne3757	Beekman



"Get into the swing!"

Playgrounds Started in 2003

Airport Pg. - Sprit of '76	4750 Playfield Lane
Bramble	6395 Bramble Avenue
Carson Covedale	4922 Rapid Run
Cornuella (Desmond)	Desmond & Roanoke
De Hart	Mathers & Altoona
Dyer	2110 Freeman Ave.
Hartwell Tot Lot	86 Ferndale Drive
Lang	6006 Woodford Rd.
New Findlay	Vine & McMicken
Pleasant Ridge RC	5915 Ridge Ave.
Salway	4250 Spring Grove Ave.
Wulsin	2270 Dana Ave.
Hannaford (Mellwood)	4400 Mellwood Avenue
Lincoln CC	1027 Linn Street
Colerain & Shepherd	Colerain & Shepherd Sts
Nassau-St. James	Nassau & St. James Sts.

Avondale Center	870 Blair Ave.
Camp Washington RC	1201 Stock St.
Carthage Tot Lot	Seymour & Vine
Corryville Rec. Center	Eden & University
Dempsey	956 Purcell Ave.
Grant	65 E. McMicken St.
Haven Tot Lot	Haven St. N. of Tallant
Massachusetts	Massachusetts & Rachel
Paddock & Tennessee	1001 Tennessee Ave.
Roselawn	Eastlawn Ave.
South Fairmount	1667 Queen City Ave.
Erie & Marburg	3357 Erie
Mt. Airy	5472 Colerain Avenue
Rapid Run	4545 Rapid Run Road
Hirsch CC	3630 Reading Road
Winton Commons	634 Hand St.





Year-End Financial Statement 2003

Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For Year Ended 12/31/03

	Revenues	Expenditures
West Region	\$689,393	\$2,137,127
East Two	\$840,355	\$2,569,399
Central Three	\$886,935	\$2,918,106
Maintenance Region	\$1,877	\$5,050,569
Golf	\$5,853,499	\$5,729,470
Seniors/Special Populations	\$400,683	\$1,716,037
Athletics	\$761,884	\$2,139,698
Waterfront	\$1,661,379	\$1,486,948
Administration	\$148,132	\$2,187,433
Total	\$11,244,138	\$25,934,787
Donations (Included Above)	\$237,012	
Capital Expenditures		\$7,308,792
Capital Encumbrances		\$10,974,601

Note: Expenditures include year-end encumbrances except golf (cancelled 1/1/04).

Year-End Financial Statement 2002

Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For Year Ended 12/31/02

	Revenues	Expenditures
West Region	\$ 966,533	\$2,383,023
East Region	\$ 918,865	\$2,458,625
Central Region	\$ 821,419	\$2,755,464
Maintenance Region	\$ 0	\$4,289,510
Golf	\$6,092,576	\$5,963,726
Seniors/Special Populations	\$ 319,188	\$1,258,336
Athletics	\$ 930,761	\$2,112,353
Waterfront	\$ 826,325	\$1,178,939
Administration	\$ 225,700	\$3,024,900
Total	\$11,101,368	\$25,424,875
Donations (Included Above)	\$ 855,987	\$ 625,489
Capital Expenditures		\$15,119,038

Note: Expenditures include year-end encumbrances.





Super Summer Stats 2003

For one week in July, 2003, The Cincinnati Recreation Commission recorded the following:

Attendance at Recreation Centers	13,693
Programs held at Recreation Centers	1,862
Program Hours at Recreation Centers	3,144
New Memberships at Recreation Centers	538
Hours of Operation at Recreation Centers	694
Special Event Hours at Recreation Centers	222
Volunteer Hours at Recreation Centers	487
New Volunteers at Recreation Centers	36
Weekly Attendance at Pools	27,597
Pool Memberships Sold	5,154
Attendance at Kroger Events	1,207
Participants on Swim Team	522
Participants in Swim Lessons	490
Participants in Guard Start Program	250
Participants in Baseball/ Softball	5,840
Adult Athletic Leagues	7,564
Adult Tournaments/ Events	744
Youth Athletic Leagues	639
Youth Tournaments/ Events	96
Golf Rounds Played	10,612
Regular Golf Rounds Played	7,506
Senior Golf Rounds Played	2,062
Junior Golf Rounds Played	1,044
Participants in Senior Programs	753
Participants in T.R. Programs	266
Participants in T.R. Day Camps	181
Participants in T.R. Baseball/ Softball	33
Participants in T.R. Adapted Aquatics	52
Participants in Adventure Outpost	135
Participants in Rivertrek	24
Participants on Green Team	30
Participants in Rec. Employment Corps.	25
Tennis Spectators at Lunken Playfield	2,488
Picnic Area Attendance at Lunken Playfield	1,206
Attendance at Lunken Playfield Bike Trail	1,180
Attendance at Lunken Playfield land of Make Believe	1,163
Attendance at Lunken Playfield Mini Golf	275
Bicycle Rentals at Lunken Playfield	52

Donors and Contributors 2003

Thank you to the following for their generous support of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation:
(listed alphabetically - donation amounts vary)

Andrew Jerkins Foundation	Greater Cincinnati Building Trades
Anonymous	Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Aramark	Greater Cincinnati Jaycees
Bente, M. David	Hamilton's Health Aid
Biggs	Katz, Frank
Bigham, Chris	Kerr, Kelly
Brandstetter and Carroll	Klaine, Franklin
BREG	Kroger
British Petroleum	Leather and Associates
Children's Hospital	Leonard, Michael
Cincinnati Catering	Lynch, Greg
Cincinnati Friends of Charity	Mccord-Berry, Mary Anne
Cincinnati Junior Chamber Foundation	Mt. Washington Community Council
Cincy Golf Inc	Neil-Carter, Brenda
Cinti/Dayton Recreation Therapy Assoc	Omart/Vega
Cognis Foundation	OPRA
Cohen, Stephanni J.	Orthopaedic Consultants
Colley, Brian	PNC Charitable Trust Committee
Daniel Rolfes Concentration Account	Procter and Gamble
Daniel Rolfes Trust	Reif, Dotty
David Williams and Associates	Richards Industries
Doerflein, Sherri	Rotary Foundation
Frank, John	Ryan Remodeling
Galway Bay Workshop, LLC	Sams Club
Garges, James R.	Senco Products
GE Aircraft Engines	Springdale Ice Cream and Beverage
Gesenhues, Jane	University of Cincinnati
Gilday , Daniel	Vandercarr Industries

